



11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Firstly, thank you for your continued support across what has been a whirlwind of a term. I am proud of how our school community has pulled together and overcome all the challenges thrown our way.

There is much information to share with you in this letter. Please do get in touch with us via [office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk) if you have any queries about the following arrangements.

#### Learning arrangements for 14<sup>th</sup> December

We are continuing to experience significant staff shortages at our school, through positive cases or self - isolation. This affects our ability to safely accommodate our school community on site.

**On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020, all Victory students should continue remote learning.** Our in - school provision for our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers will continue to operate as per previous communications.

Please do support our expectation that all students should be completing their learning on Microsoft Teams, or through the physical work packs we provide, for all lessons on Monday

Our staffing capacity is reviewed daily, as we seek to have students returning to school as soon as we are able to do so.

You may be aware that this afternoon the Government announced the UK's self-isolation period will be shortened from 14 days to 10 days.

We have yet to receive anything official from the Department for Education, or our local authority, regarding how this will be applied within a school setting. We are however, working with our Trust who are reviewing this update in accordance with our current self-isolation guidelines.

To clarify, IF you are currently learning from home, following a self-isolation instruction, please DO NOT return to school before your original date.

**I will be writing to you again on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to confirm if this new advice has any impact to the measures currently in place, and will allow us to welcome students back to our site next week.**



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[www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk](http://www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk)

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The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



### End of term and holiday arrangements

Since returning to school-based learning after lockdown, we have had a legal responsibility to implement a track and trace system within our school. I am sure most of you will have seen one of the many letters we have sent, informing you of the actions we had to take, such as instructing students to self-isolate or closing bubbles as a result of positive cases of Covid-19.

Yesterday, the Department for Education (DfE) published new guidance on how schools should be implementing their track and trace systems over the Christmas period. As a result of this guidance please be aware of the following:

- The last day of term will now be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Online learning and our in - school provision will cease after 1.20pm on Thursday.
- The school will be closed on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to all students and staff.
- **The school will continue to operate its track and trace systems until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If your child shows symptoms or tests positive between the 18-23<sup>rd</sup> December you must inform the school.**
- As advised by government guidelines - if your child tests positive for Covid-19 or is contacted by the school as a result of close contact, we have a legal responsibility to inform and they have a legal responsibility to self-isolate for 14 days.

Understandably, no families want to receive a letter informing them to self-isolate across the Christmas period, but I would ask you to remember how far we have come, as a nation, and as a local community, so we must continue to follow the national guidance to keep us all safe.

### **HOW WILL TRACK AND TRACE WORK DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS?**

- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 between the 18-23<sup>rd</sup> December, email [office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk) remembering to include your child's name, date of positive test result, date of first symptoms and the last date in school.
- The school will contact you to confirm close contacts and self-isolation period.
- The school will then notify the close contacts **via email or text**. Only those impacted will be contacted. Please ensure you are regularly checking your emails as this will be the only official means of communication during this period.
- Please do ensure we have updated contact details so that we are able to contact you over the Christmas

If you are contacted, you will receive an email containing all the information you need to know.



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### I HAVE QUESTIONS, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

The school office will be closed during the Christmas holidays on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, and then from 24<sup>th</sup> December until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

- If you have any medical questions please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- For questions about self-isolation please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>
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### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you receive free school meals, Medway Council are working with Chartwells (our school caterers) to provide food hampers for all children who attend Medway Schools. Each hamper will contain a variety of healthy foods with recipe ideas to cover lunch for a student for two weeks. These parcels will be delivered to schools and parents will need to collect these. The school will contact those students eligible next week to confirm collection dates and process.

Thank you again for all your support this term. I will write again on Monday with further information about learning arrangements for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Gage

Principal



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